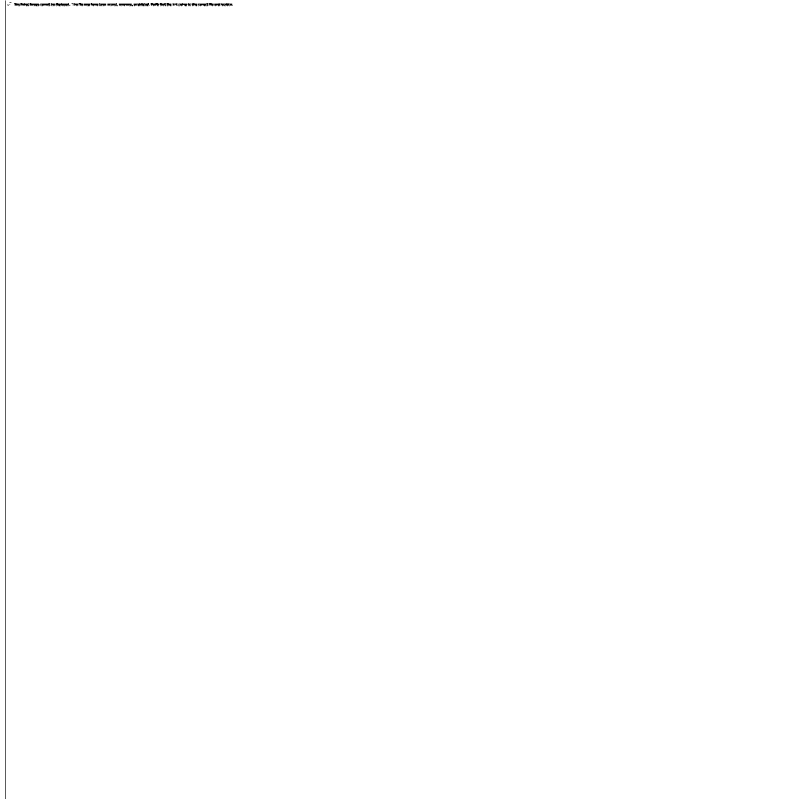
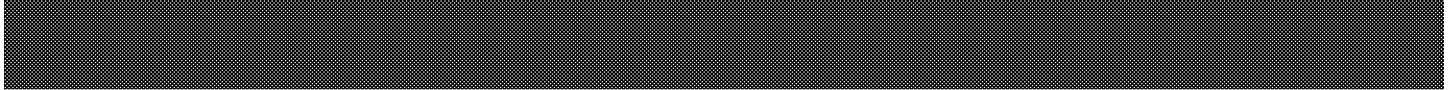


Message

From: Morning Consult [reply@e.morningconsult.com]
Sent: 5/17/2018 1:13:13 PM
To: Woods, Clint [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=bc65010f5c2e48f4bc2aa050db50d198-Woods, Clint]
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Brent Crude Rises Past \$80 a Barrel Amid Uncertainty Over Iran Sanctions



By [Jacqueline Toth](#)

Top Stories

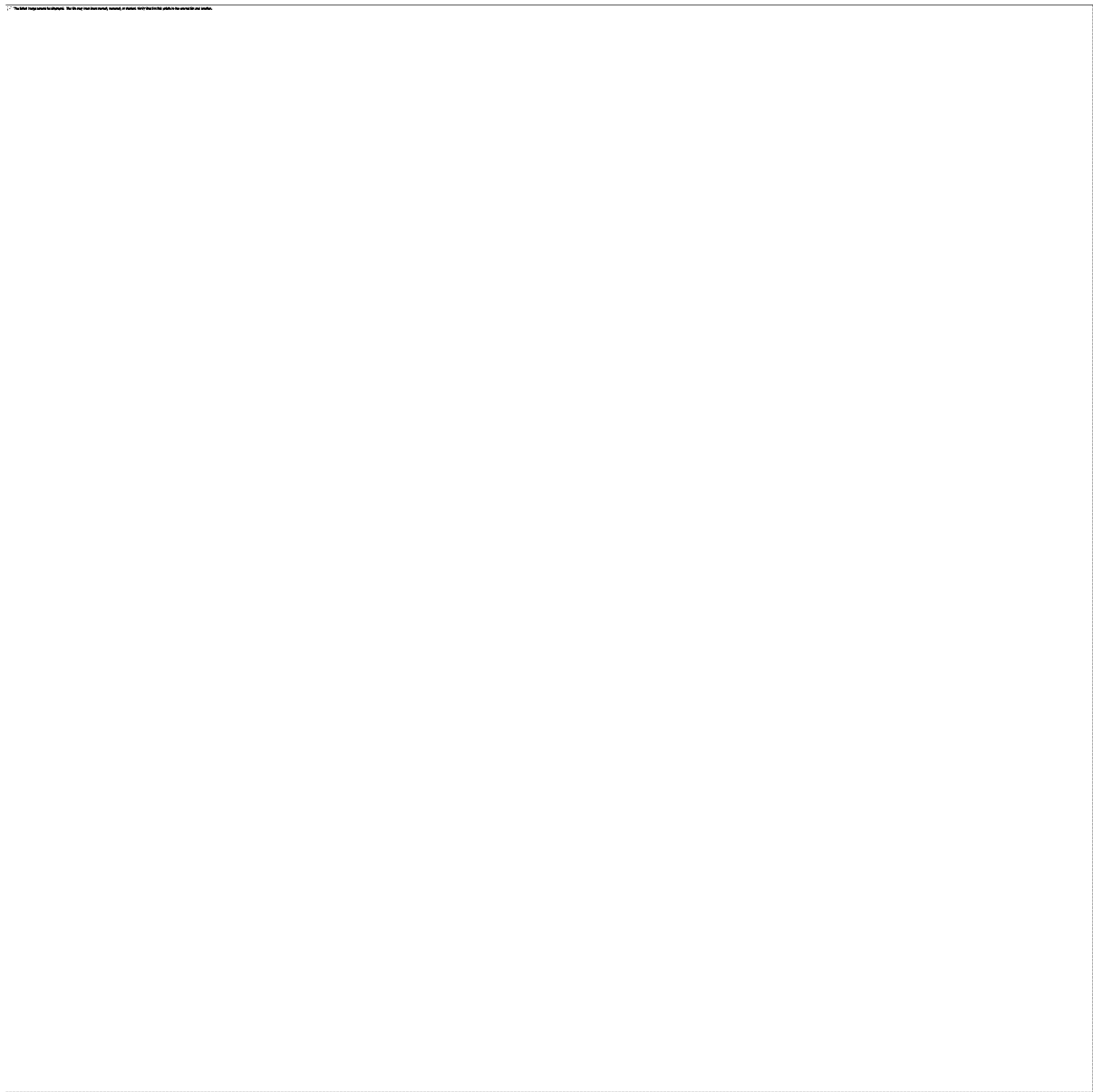
- Brent crude prices rose past \$80 a barrel, their highest level since November 2014, as the world continues to react to the United States' decision to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal and reinstate sanctions on Iran, and as European companies start pulling back from Iran given the threat of sanctions. Brent crude was up 0.8 percent to \$79.91 a barrel on London's ICE Futures exchange. ([The Wall Street Journal](#))

- For the last few weeks, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt has been advised by white-collar defense lawyer Paul Rauser, co-founder of the Aegis Law Group, over the federal investigations Pruitt faces surrounding extravagant spending and allegations of ethical lapses, according to two people familiar with the situation. Pruitt's support among White House staffers has waned, but President Donald Trump "hasn't yet gotten to the point" of wanting to fire Pruitt yet, according to a former White House official. ([Politico](#))
- Citing security concerns, a senior United States diplomat warned that the United States might choose to sanction Russia's Nord Stream 2 natural gas pipeline that is planned to span from Russia to Germany. The project would double how much natural gas Russia can ship to Europe from Siberia. ([The Associated Press](#))
- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration launched what is at least its second investigation into car crashes involving vehicles made by Tesla Inc., this time over last week's crash of a car on Autopilot in Utah. The NHTSA, which has sent a team of investigators to look into the accident, said it "will take appropriate action" depending on the results of its review. ([Reuters](#))
- Canadian Finance Minister Bill Morneau said Canada will cover Kinder Morgan Inc.'s losses on the \$5.75 billion Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, a project Prime Minister Justin Trudeau approved in 2016 but which British Columbia has vowed to block, citing environmental risks. Kinder Morgan has said it will abandon the project on May 31 unless political and legal hurdles over the project are lifted. ([The Wall Street Journal](#))

Chart Review

Tax credits and solar tariffs affect timing of projected renewable power plant deployment

U.S. Energy Information Administration



Events Calendar (All Times Local)

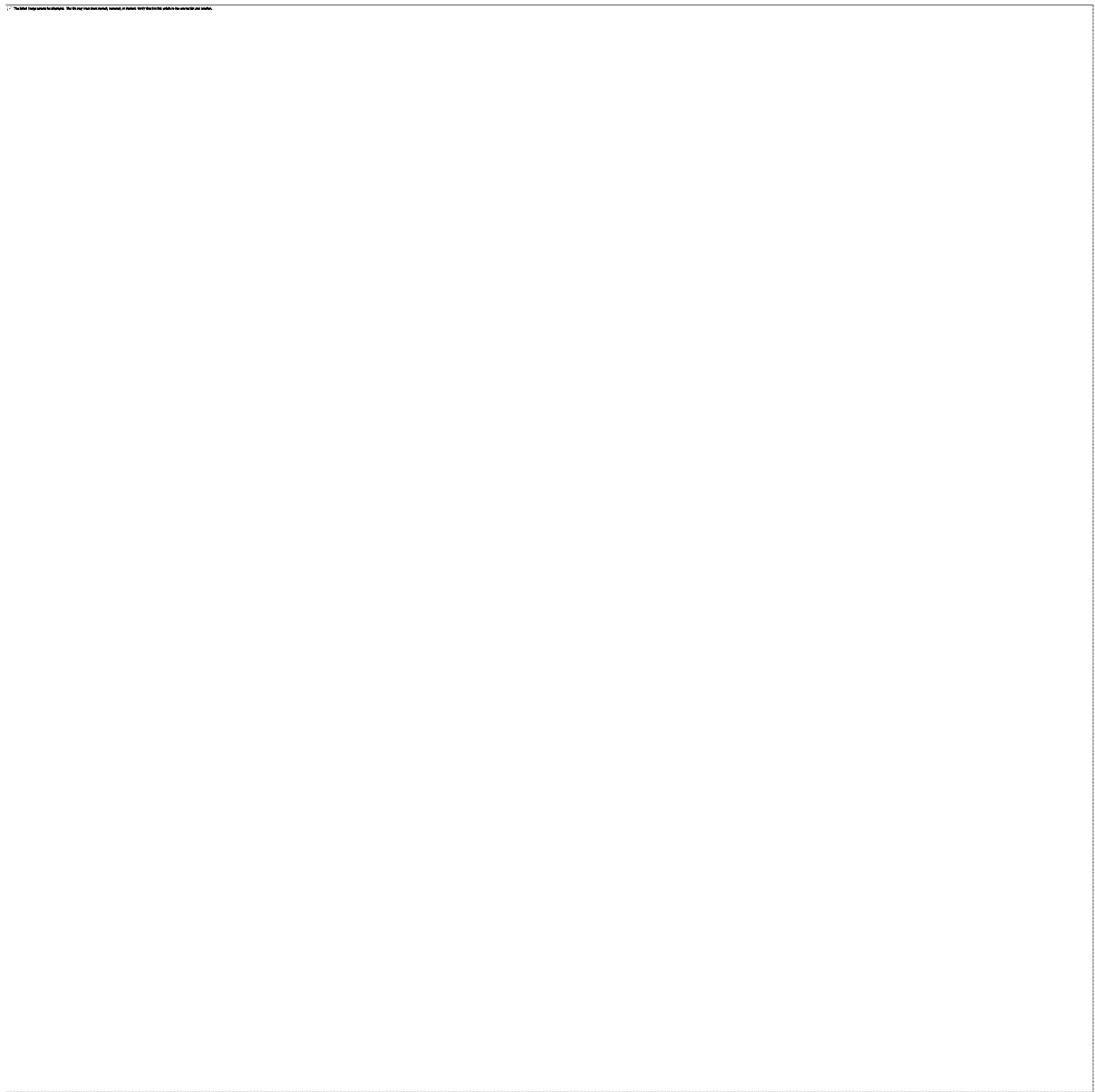
THURSDAY

AclaraConnect conference	7 a.m.
California Energy Summit	8 a.m.
National Infrastructure Week	8 a.m.

CSIS conversation with Total S.A. Chairman and CEO Patrick Pouyanné	9 a.m.
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission open meeting	10 a.m.
House Natural Resources Oversight hearing on impediments to commerce and innovative injurious species management	10 a.m.
U.S. Energy Association event on a carbon sequestration partnership	10 a.m.
Senate Environment and Public Works hearing on S.2800, America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018	10:15 a.m.
Advanced Energy Economy webinar on cybersecurity in a distributed energy future	11 a.m.
American Council on Renewable Energy webinar on community choice aggregation	12 p.m.
House Federal Lands Subcommittee hearing on H.R. 2365, H.R. 3777, H.R. 4824 and H.R. 5023	2 p.m.

FRIDAY

National Infrastructure Week	8 a.m.
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These are the Most Loved Brands in America

The brands that define American culture and commerce, ranked using over 250,000 survey interviews with U.S. adults.

General

Brent Crude Hits \$80 Amid Concerns Over Iran Supply
Sarah McFarlane, The Wall Street Journal

Brent crude prices climbed past \$80 a barrel Thursday, as Washington's decision to reinstate sanctions on Iran continued to fuel a rally that has pushed the market to 3½-year highs.

Pruitt taps outside attorney for help amid investigations
Andrew Restuccia and Emily Holden, Politico

EPA administrator Scott Pruitt has tapped a white-collar defense lawyer to advise him as he grapples with a dozen federal investigations into his activity, according to two people familiar with the situation.

EPA's Own Advisory Board Questions "Secret Science" Plan
Scott Waldman, E&E News

EPA's Science Advisory Board wants to review Administrator Scott Pruitt's plan to restrict studies the agency uses when crafting regulations.

Environmental groups sue EPA for abandoning hard rock mining rule
Valerie Volcovici, Reuters

Six environmental groups on Wednesday filed a lawsuit against U.S. Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt for abandoning a rule that would have forced hard-rock mining companies to prove they have enough money up front to clean up hazardous substances released at mine sites.

EPA's Scott Pruitt given extension to file financial disclosure
Josh Siegel, Washington Examiner

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt did not file his financial disclosure form for 2018 when it was due Tuesday because he was granted an extension.

EPA move on chemical study may trip up Pruitt
Annie Snider, Politico

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is facing a new controversy over chemical contamination that could prove even more damaging than his spate of recent ethics scandals.

Dems claim Pruitt's former security chief intervened to hire business associate

Miranda Green, The Hill

Two Democrats on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee are requesting that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) inspector general (IG) look into the business dealings of Administrator Scott Pruitt's former head of security.

Scott Pruitt's Policy Director at EPA Met With Hundreds of Industry Representatives, Emails Show

Sharon Lerner, The Intercept

A cache of internal Environmental Protection Agency communications shows that the embattled agency administrator Scott Pruitt isn't the only one who has been in frequent contact with the industries that the environmental agency is supposed to regulate.

Oil magnate gave Pence tickets to NFL game he walked out of

Megan R. Wilson, The Hill

Vice President Pence received NFL tickets from oil magnate Forrest Lucas and tickets to the 2017 Super Bowl valued at \$15,000 from Houston Texans owner Bob McNair, according to the vice president's most recent personal financial disclosure form.

Oil and Natural Gas

US Warns of Sanctions Risk to Germany-Russia Gas Pipeline

Frank Jordans, The Associated Press

A pipeline project between Russia and Germany risks triggering U.S. sanctions because of security concerns, a senior American diplomat said Thursday.

Canada Ready to Compensate Kinder Morgan for Pipeline Losses

Paul Vieira, The Wall Street Journal

In a bid to protect Canada's reputation as an attractive destination for energy investment, the Liberal government pledged Wednesday to cover Kinder Morgan Inc.'s losses on the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion caused by British Columbia's efforts to delay and potentially kill the project.

US court ruling sparks tussle over impact on construction of Atlantic Coast gas pipe project
Maya Weber, Platts

Following an appeals court decision late Tuesday vacating a US Fish and Wildlife Service authorization for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, the next battleground is emerging over the extent to which construction can move forward on the 600-mile natural gas pipeline project.

Oil Is Above \$70, but Frackers Still Struggle to Make Money
Christopher M. Matthews and Bradley Olson, The Wall Street Journal

American shale drillers are still spending more money than they are making, even as oil prices rise.

Statoil name change shines light on future of Big Oil
Patrick McLoughlin, Platts

Statoil officially changed its name to Equinor on Wednesday after a shareholder vote, raising but not necessarily answering questions as to the degree of strategic change in the Norwegian energy major's focus.

Two North America Pipeline Giants Bring Units Back Into Fold
Amanda Jordan, Bloomberg

Two of North America's biggest pipeline companies announced plans to repurchase subsidiaries as the industry seeks to curb future tax obligations in the face of a federal overhaul.

Utilities and Infrastructure

Full reconstruction of Puerto Rico's grid could take a decade, says lead contractor
Robert Walton, Utility Dive

It's been eight months since Hurricane Maria destroyed Puerto Rico's electric grid. Despite significant recovery work, there are still thousands without power - and though the island is not prepared for it, the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season begins in two weeks.

New York proposes strict carbon emission limits for existing power plants
Robert Walton, Utility Dive

Federal efforts to impose carbon emission limits on power plants have been stalled for some time amid litigation and an unfavorable political climate, leaving it to states to take action to address a major source of greenhouse gas emissions.

Renewables

U.S. safety agency sends team to investigate Tesla crash

David Shepardson, Reuters

The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said on Wednesday that it was sending a team to investigate the crash of a Tesla Inc vehicle last week in Utah that occurred while the car was in Autopilot mode.

Nissan's Following Tesla Into Solar Power and Home Batteries

Jack Stewart, Wired

Given the weather in the United Kingdom-that cloudy, foggy, drizzly country-it doesn't seem like the best place to launch a business that revolves around solar power. But this is where the builder of the world's best-selling electric car just started selling Nissan Energy Solar, a generation-to-acceleration scheme that equips customers with roof-mounted panels and a battery to store some of the electricity they generate.

Coal

Judge allows bankrupt FirstEnergy Solutions to exit power plant co-op

Robert Walton, Utility Dive

A judge in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court of the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division, has granted a preliminary injunction allowing FirstEnergy Solutions to withdraw from the Ohio Valley Electric Corporation (OVEC), a cooperative of companies that operates two coal-fired power plants.

Nuclear

The French stress test for nuclear power

Andrew Ward and David Keohane, Financial Times

Years late and billions over budget the first European Pressurised Reactor is set to become operational. Its success is critical for France.

Climate

Nominee skirts question on climate science

Maxine Joselow, E&E News

President Trump's nominee to lead the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration yesterday refused to say whether she agrees with mainstream climate science.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Investors Stand with the Gwich'in to Defend Arctic Refuge

Bernadette Demientieff, Morning Consult

As far back as I can remember, my people have considered the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge sacred. Known to the Gwich'in people as "Iizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit / the sacred place where life begins," I was always told that if it were ever disturbed, we would lose our identity, our culture and our way of life as Gwich'in.

California utilities race to charge your electric car, bus, forklift

Adrian Martinez, Utility Dive

California has its eye on the prize when it comes to the future of its air and the future of its energy grid. That's why it's taking on the most aggressive EV charging station plan in the nation.

Unable to sway oil prices, Trump admin now missing clean energy potential

Robert Johnson, Axios

Market fears of snapback sanctions on Iranian oil exports have caused oil prices to rise, providing a stark reminder that the U.S. is still the world's largest oil consumer. In response to the trend, President Trump said that such prices "will not be accepted."

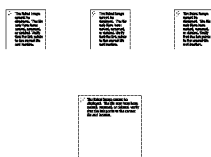
Pruitt's EPA disregards the science behind the Clean Air Act **Bernard D. Goldstein, The Hill**

In the name of "cooperative federalism," Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt is out to gut one of the finest examples of cooperative federalism in environmental law - that of setting outdoor air pollutant standards.

Research Reports

Barriers to Industrial Decarbonisation **Sandbag**

Industries operating within the EU's Emissions Trading System (ETS) account for some 42% of the bloc's total CO₂ emissions. Reducing these sources of greenhouse gases is critical to meeting the EU's overall emissions targets and limiting global temperature rise in line with the Paris Agreement.



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